

### *Wedding Band Worksheet*

1. In the space below, describe the stasis at the beginning of Wedding Band. In other words, “Where are we?” “When is it (time, day, and year)?” “Who are the people involved?” “What is the dramatic situation in which the characters find themselves as the play unfolds?” **This play takes place in South Carolina in 1918 over the course of three days. The characters are Julia, Herman, Herman’s mother and sister, and Julia’s neighbors. Herman and Julia love each other but he is white and she is Black and their relationship is certainly frowned upon during this time.**
2. What is the intrusion that causes the stasis to be broken and the dramatic action to develop, often at an increasingly rapid pace, to the end of the play? NOTE: Arguments might be made for several different points where stasis is broken. Be prepared to defend your point of view, if different from other students. **Herman catches the flu, which during this time could be very deadly.**
3. Why do the events of the play take place at this particular time and place? In other words, what is the unique factor which is out of the ordinary that causes a turn of events to take place? **This is a time when racial tensions are very high. Slavery had ended only about 50 years before. Jim Crow was starting to settle in and take a real foothold in society. Black people are poor sharecroppers during this time as well. Essentially, racial relations are very tense. The fact that a white man is in love with a Black woman is crazy during this time.**
4. State the dramatic questions that must be answered by the end of the play? (Ordinarily, the dramatic question shares a close connection with the intrusion.) **Will Herman and Julia’s relationship be accepted before something tragic happens to Herman?**
5. Use Julia to answer the questions concerning character. Ball says, a character is revealed by what he/she does, that is the dramatic actions that are taken by that character. Examine what the character wants (NOTE: In Wedding Band the wants of Julia are in flux. They change as the play progresses). The wants of a character often encounter obstacles that get in the way of achieving those wants. Ball says there are 4 kinds of obstacles that frustrate the wants of a character. They are: a. Me against myself, b. Me against another individual or individuals, c. Me against society (that is law, social norms, etc.) and, d. Me against fate, the universe, natural forces, God or the gods. In answering these questions be sure to point to the particular obstacles that demonstrate these obstacles in the play.
6. The most important information in most plays takes place during theatrical moments. Identify the most theatrical moments in Wedding Band. **As seen in the videos in class, the most theatrical parts of this play was watching Herman deteriorate and suffer from the flu. In the 21st Century, we know what it’s like to have the flu, but watching him roll around in bed and nearly wail in agony was rather dramatic.**

7. Provide at least three examples of images in Wedding Band. How does the title of the play help us understand the images in the play? (Remember Ball says that, “An image is the use of something we know that tells us something we don’t know.” He goes on to say that images invoke and expand, rather than define and limit.”)

8. Ordinarily, there are many themes in most plays. List the themes in Wedding Band. **An obvious theme was love. This play really tried to emphasize that love is an important force that may or may not prevail.**

9. Most American plays have something to do with family and/or family relationships. What does family have to do with the dramatic action in Wedding Band? Perhaps you might argue for several different kinds of family in this particular play. What do you think? **Herman’s mother and sister were very present in this play. Although their opinions were not always welcome, they always tried to offer it, just like most families do.**